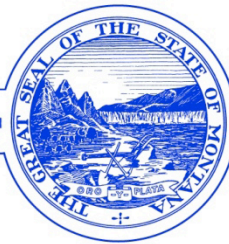


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Southern Land Office



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STATE OF MONTANA

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Initial Proposal Runamuk L&L Limited Access Commercial Thinning

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Southern Land Office is proposing to complete a commercial thinning timber harvest on the following state owned parcels.

Section 16 T6N., R.25E. Common Schools

The primary objective of the proposed project is to commercially thin overstocked Ponderosa Pine trees improving stand density and overall forest health. Road maintenance and improvement will be needed on the existing access road but no new road construction is necessary to access proposed harvest units. Noxious weed management, unit and SMZ marking and boundary line marking may also occur under the proposed action. The proposed action also includes some thinning in class 3 Stream Management Zones.

The proposed thinning follows the mission of the Forest Management Bureau, which is: "To sustainably manage Montana's forested trust lands to maximize long-term revenue for Montana's Schools while promoting healthy and diverse forests"

The proposal is in the general vicinity of Goulding Creek, south and west of Roundup, MT. There are no fish bearing streams located in the project area. Mitigations will be used to reduce or eliminate short and long term impacts to wildlife.

Due to the scattered nature of state lands in the project vicinity and the landlocked nature of this section the proposed harvest would take place as a limited access timber sale. The proposal would harvest approximately 500 thousand board feet from approximately 375 acres. The proposed action is scheduled to be implemented in the late summer of 2014 and be completed by 2017.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, the DNRC will employ a wide variety of specialists to study potential impacts to wildlife, hydrology, soils and archeology. Neighboring landowners will also be contacted and will be provided an opportunity to provide specific project input.

The Montana D.N.R.C. invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by May 30, 2014 to:

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